

Henry Clay High School

Advanced Marching Band Course

Attendance Policy

Dear marching band students and families:

It is important to understand the commitment, value, and role of attendance as it relates to participation with the Henry Clay Marching Band. The Henry Clay Marching Band Program has a long standing history and tradition of excellence. This history and tradition has been evident and proven through years of work by committed students and their families. This commitment requires time, energy, effort, and diligent participation through outstanding attendance. The “family” and “team” concept necessary for any successful marching band comes through responsibility and reliance on each and every individual. The “family” cannot succeed without every student being present and accountable. Many athletic teams have starting players, bench players, and those hoping to make the team in future years. When one player falters, another player is there to take their place. The marching band consists of entirely starting members. There are no players to fill in spaces when a player falters or fails. It is not possible to replace a member or simply “fill in a spot” on the team. Each and every member must be accountable to him or herself and to the team. The following policy outlines the expectation of ***attendance and participation*** in the Henry Clay High School Marching Band and will be reflected in student grades for this advanced credit course.

The marching band will rehearse Monday and Tuesday regularly from 4 PM until 6 PM, and Thursday regularly from 4 PM until 7 PM. There are several Friday night Football game performances and numerous Saturday rehearsals and performances with an occasional Wednesday afternoon or other altered rehearsal ****(See Band Calendar for rehearsal schedule at www.henryclayband.org)****

Please understand that ALL REHEARSALS and PERFORMANCES are required and considered mandatory for participation in the Henry Clay High School Advanced Marching Band course.

In rare circumstances, it may be necessary for a student to be absent from a rehearsal.

Students will be allowed up to **2 excused absences** from rehearsals for the entire season under the following conditions:

- 1.) The situation is an emergency- emergency/serious illness or injury or death in the family. Written notice should be submitted immediately upon return and staff should

be notified via phone call or e-mail as to the student's location and status at the time of the incident as the Henry Clay High Band is responsible for each student's whereabouts.

- 2.) Henry Clay High School approved leave where **at least 1 full week** of notice is given through written communication via the "Rehearsal Excuse Form" (see attached). Understand that a "leave" of any kind must be *approved* well in advance of the absence. We will not approve *any* leave with less than 1 week notice. This would be considered an unexcused absence.
- 3.) A **tardy** will be defined as follows: missing any portion of a rehearsal (arriving late, leaving early, or missing a portion in the middle of rehearsal) **2 tardies constitutes and equals 1 absence**. An excused tardy must also be approved at least 1 full week in advance and an emergency tardy must be accompanied by documentation immediately upon arrival. All other tardies are considered unexcused and count against participation.

Consequence for any absence/tardy beyond 2 excused absences:

Student loses participation points applied to their individual grade and the student may NOT be eligible to perform with the band at the following performance or competition.

Please understand that while an absence/tardy may be granted excused, a student may NOT be eligible to march and perform the following performance. An excused absence results in the student's spot being reserved for them in the show upon their return, but does not guarantee the student will march the following performance for preparation and safety reasons.

Unexcused absences are NOT permitted at any point during the season and are grounds for dismissal from the marching portion of the program. This "team and family" is dependent upon each and every student. Unexcused absences cannot and will not be tolerated. These absences are irresponsible and detrimental to the entire group and team concept. In addition, students should not participate in marching band if they are unable to perform at ALL scheduled performances.

*I have read, agree to, and fully understand the **Henry Clay High School Marching Band Attendance Policy**. I certify that I am committed to the program and will be diligent in my work ethic. I am aware that I am part of a family/team that is depending and relying on me to be responsible, accountable, and present for ALL scheduled rehearsals and performances. I will do my best to uphold the history and tradition of excellence in the Henry Clay High School Band Program.*

STUDENT NAME (PRINT)

STUDENT SIGNATURE

PARENT SIGNATURE

Band Rehearsal Excuse Form

This form should also be submitted if you will arrive late, leave early, or be absent for any portion of any rehearsal (tardy)

This form MUST BE submitted at least 1 full week prior to absence

Student Name: _____

Rehearsal dates I will not be attending: _____

Reason for absence: _____

Parent signature: _____

I, _____, fully understand that missing a rehearsal is detrimental to the entire group. I have read the guidelines for excusable rehearsal absences and verify that my absence/tardy is excusable. I also understand, I may be asked to complete "make-up" work for my time away from the ensemble.

Student Signature

Date

***Please attach doctor's excuse if necessary*

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